

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

### *Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, Optimal nutrition is of vital significance in the early months and years of life and has a lifelong impact on sustained health; and,

*Whereas*, Exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life and continued breastfeeding, along with the addition of appropriate complementary feeding at six months and beyond, ensures that both mothers and infants receive maximum health benefits; and,

*Whereas*, Human milk provides the ideal balance of nutrients for infants, ensuring proper growth and development; and,

*Whereas*, Human milk reduces risk of infectious and chronic disease; protects the health and mothers and infants, and may reduce the risk of SIDS, diarrhea, asthma, diabetes, childhood obesity, and certain childhood cancers; and,

*Whereas*, Keeping breastfeeding high on the public health agenda is critical to improving the health and well-being of mothers and infants in South Dakota; and,

*Whereas*, South Dakota joins professional health organizations and breastfeeding advocates worldwide in celebrating World Breastfeeding Week 2017 to collaboratively raise awareness of the numerous benefits of breastfeeding; to strengthen individual, family, and community support for breastfeeding; to further strategies that protect optimal breastfeeding practices; and to encourage increased breastfeeding rates; and to celebrate the 2017 theme, "Sustaining Breastfeeding Together":

*Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim August 1-7, 2017, as

## **BREASTFEEDING AWARENESS WEEK**

in South Dakota, and I encourage all South Dakotans to seek reliable information and support breastfeeding as a high priority for healthier babies in our state.



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twelfth Day of July in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seventeen.

*Dennis Daugaard*  
Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

*Shantel Krebs*  
Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State